

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC HEARING
JANUARY 10, 2017 7:15 p.m.
Legislative Chamber**

**ORDINANCE NAMING AND REORGANIZING ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS
OF THE TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD:**

Public Hearing opened at 7:20 p.m.

President Cantor: Public Hearing, 7:15, Ordinance Naming and Reorganizing Administrative Departments of the Town of West Hartford. I'm calling the meeting to order. Roll call, Ms. Labrot.

Councilors Barnes, Cantor, Casperson, Davidoff, Dodge, Hall, Kerrigan, Wenograd, and Williams were present.

President Cantor: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. Presentation?

Mr. Alair: Good evening. The Ordinance that you have in front of you is, I'm sure, highly controversial. We are changing the names of three Town Departments. The Department of Employee Services is becoming the Department of Human Resources because that aligns more closely with what people think of when they are going to look for the Department of employee services. People who are applying for jobs are looking for Human Resources, HR. They're not looking for Employee Services. The Department of Community Services is becoming the Department of Community Development because, again, that's what people look for. And we have a hybrid department, which is the Department of Human Services, which is mistaken for Human Resources, and we also have Department of Social Services. And we have a Department of Leisure Services, and again, people are not entirely sure what those mean, so we're changing the names. The Ordinance in front of you does it in somewhat a cursory fashion because I think I indicated at your December meeting, once this Ordinance is adopted, we are doing a Recodification Ordinance, which will allow us to take these new names and insert them into all of the other sections of the Ordinances where these Departments are mentioned without having to reprint all of those sections here. The only tiny twist in all of this is the Department of Employee Services is actually mentioned in our Charter, and so we can't technically change its name unless we change the Charter, which we can't do. So what we're doing is saying, well, it's still the Department of Employee Services, but it may also go by the name of Human Resources. That's why it's phrased that way. I have nothing further.

President Cantor: Yes?

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you. Just to emphasize this is at no cost. We are not throwing away old stationery for new stationery so there's not going to be business cards that get tossed out. We're going to use up whatever we have and then use these names, which are more appropriate.

President Cantor: Thank you, Mr. Alair, and thank you, Mr. Van Winkle.

Mr. Alair: The sign-up sheet is blank.

President Cantor: Any questions for Mr. Alair or Mr. Van Winkle on the presentation? No. The signup sheet, there is nobody signed up. Is there anybody here in the audience that would like to speak to this Resolution? No. Okay. Then we, I'm sorry? I'm sorry, this is an Ordinance and not a Resolution. All right, then we will close the Public Hearing and we will start our Council Meeting in five minutes. Thank you very much.

Public Hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

Essie S. Labrot
Town/Council Clerk

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